AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (currently amended) An article management system, comprising:

a noncontact electronic tag storing tag data attached to an article managed in a management area;

a passage radio communication means that can communicate with the noncontact electronic tag installed in a passage section leading to the management area, wherein the passage radio communication means is configured to communicate with the noncontact electronic tag attached to the article passing through the passage section;

a tag check processing means for detecting whether the noncontact electronic tag is permitted to pass through the passage section or is inhibited from passage, where said tag check processing means further comprises:

a multiple tag access processing means for avoiding a collision between said noncontact electronic tag and a second noncontact electronic tag and for ~~reading~~ receiving [[the]] tag data stored in said noncontact electronic tag for processing executed by the passage radio communication means,

where said multiple tag access processing is enabled when said tag check processing means detects a noncontact electronic tag whose passage is inhibited.

19. (Previously Presented) The article management system of claim 18, wherein said multiple tag access processing means is enabled only for a noncontact electronic tag whose passage through the passage section is inhibited.

20. (Previously Presented) The article management system of claim 18 further comprising a user radio electronic means associated with an article passing through the passage section and configured to communicate with the passage radio communication means, and wherein

the passage radio communication means is configured to receive user data stored on the user radio electronic means as user identification processing data.

21-27 (cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for operating an article management processing system, said processing system when executing said program performing the steps of:

communicating using a passage radio communication system with a noncontact electronic tag storing tag data attached to an article managed in a management area, said passage radio communication system being installed in a passage section leading to the management area, wherein said passage radio communication means is configured to communicate with the noncontact electronic tag attached to the article passing through the passage section;

detecting using a check processing program whether the noncontact electronic tag is permitted to pass through the passage section, where said check processing program further comprises:

a multiple tag access processing program for avoiding a collision between said noncontact electronic tag and a second noncontact electronic tag and for reading the tag data stored in said noncontact electronic tag for processing executed by the passage radio communication means,

where said multiple tag access processing is enabled when said tag check processing means detects a noncontact electronic tag whose passage is inhibited.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ storage medium of claim 28 wherein said processing system when executing said program causes said

multiple tag access processing program [[is]] to be enabled only for a noncontact electronic tag whose passage through the passage section is inhibited.

30. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 28

wherein said processing system when executing said program interacts with

~~further comprising~~ a user radio electronic means associated with an article passing through the passage section [[and]] which is configured to communicate with the passage radio communication means, and wherein the passage radio communication means is configured to receive user data stored on the user radio electronic means as user identification processing data.

31. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 28 wherein said noncontact electronic tag data includes inhibition detection-possible data, which includes an application family identifier ("AFI") and a unique ID ("UID"), for detecting inhibition of passage of said electronic tag through said passage section based on at least one of said AFI and UID.

32. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for operating an article management processing system, said processing system when executing said program performing the steps of:

communicating using a radio communication system with a noncontact electronic tag attached to an article managed in a management area, wherein said noncontact electronic tag includes tag data;

processing using a multiple tag access program of said radio communication system, said processing comprising:

processing using a interrogation communication processing system configured to set a part of a unique ID stored in the noncontact electronic tag as a reference for determining a response

timing for causing the noncontact electronic tag to transmit a response data, and transmitting specification data specifying the part of the ID;

processing using a response data acquiring processing system configured to acquire the response data of the noncontact electronic tag which did not have collision during the response by the response timing;

processing using a response stop processing system configured to transmit a signal for stopping a further response from a noncontact electronic tag which receives a response data; and

processing using a repetitive processing system which is enabled when a plurality of noncontact electronic tags make a response at the same response timing and one of a response data received by said radio communication means collides with another of a response data, said repetitive processing system configured to change a specification position in the specification data and causing the interrogating communication processing means, the response data acquiring processing means and the response stop processing means to be re-executed.

33. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 32 wherein

said processing system under control of said program sets

a limitation condition is set for terminating repetition of the repetitive processing system

34. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 32 wherein

said processing system under control of said program sets

a limitation condition ~~is set~~ for terminating repetition of the repetitive processing system regardless of whether or not a collision avoidance is accomplished.

35. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 32

wherein said processing system when executing said program interacts with

~~further comprising~~ a user radio electronic means associated with an article passing through the passage section [[and]] which is configured to communicate with the passage radio communication means, and wherein the passage radio communication means is configured to receive user data stored on the user radio electronic means as user identification processing data.

36. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ of claim 32 wherein said noncontact electronic tag data includes inhibition detection-possible data, which includes an application family identifier ("AFI") and a unique ID ("UID"), for detecting inhibition of passage of said electronic tag through said passage section based on at least one of said AFI and UID.

37. (New) An article management system, comprising:

a noncontact electronic tag storing tag data attached to an article managed in a management area;

a passage radio communication circuit that can communicate with the noncontact electronic tag installed in a passage section leading to the management area, wherein the passage radio communication circuit is configured to communicate with the noncontact electronic tag attached to the article passing through the passage section;

a tag check processing circuit for detecting whether the noncontact electronic tag is permitted to pass through the passage section or is inhibited from passage, where said tag check processing circuit further comprises:

a multiple tag access processing circuit configured for avoiding a collision between said noncontact electronic tag and a second noncontact electronic tag and for reading the tag data stored in said noncontact electronic tag for processing executed by the passage radio communication circuit,

where said multiple tag access processing circuit is enabled when said tag check processing device detects a noncontact electronic tag whose passage is inhibited.

38. (New) The article management system of claim 37, wherein said multiple tag access processing circuit is enabled only for a noncontact electronic tag whose passage through the passage section is inhibited.

39. (New) The article management system of claim 37 further comprising a user radio electronic circuit associated with an article passing through the passage section and configured to communicate with the passage radio communication device, and wherein the passage radio communication device is configured to receive user data stored on the user radio electronic circuit as user identification processing data.

40. (New) The article management system of any of claims 37-39 wherein said noncontact electronic tag data includes inhibition detection-possible data, which includes an application family identifier ("AFI") and a unique ID ("UID"), for detecting inhibition of passage of said electronic tag through said passage section based on at least one of said AFI and UID.

41. (New) An article management system, comprising:

a noncontact electronic tag storing tag data attached to an article managed in a management area;

a radio communication circuit configured to communicate with said noncontact electronic tag, and wherein the radio communication circuit communicates with the noncontact electronic tag attached to the article, wherein said radio communication circuit includes a multiple tag access processing circuit, comprising:

an interrogation communication processing circuit configured to set a part of a unique ID stored in the noncontact electronic tag as a reference for determining a response timing for causing

the noncontact electronic tag to transmit a response data, and transmitting specification data specifying the part of the ID;

a response data acquiring processing circuit configured to acquire the response data of the noncontact electronic tag which did not have collision during the response at the response timing;

a response stop processing circuit configured to transmit a signal for stopping a further response from a noncontact electronic tag for which response data was acquired; and

a repetitive processing circuit which is enabled when a plurality of noncontact electronic tags make a response at the same response timing and one of a response data received by said radio communication circuit collides with another of a response data, said repetitive processing circuit configured to change a specification position in the specification data and causing the interrogating communication processing circuit, the response data acquiring processing circuit and the response stop processing circuit to be re-executed.

42. (New) The article management system of claim 41 wherein a limitation condition is set for terminating repetition of the repetitive processing circuit.

43. (New) The article management system of claim 41 wherein a limitation condition is set for terminating repetition of the repetitive processing circuit regardless of whether or not a collision avoidance is accomplished.

44. (New) The article management system of claim 41 further comprising a user radio electronic circuit associated with an article passing through the passage section and configured to communicate with the passage radio communication circuit, and wherein the passage radio communication circuit is configured to receive user data stored on the user radio electronic circuit as user identification processing data.

45. (New) The article management system of claim 41 wherein said noncontact electronic tag data includes inhibition detection-possible data, which includes an application family identifier ("AFI") and a unique ID ("UID"), for detecting inhibition of passage of said electronic tag through said passage section based on at least one of said AFI and UID.